

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 10 AUG 51

SUBJECT Resistance; Secret Police; Camps; Economic Situation; Communications; Army; Military Stores

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1. Internal Situation:

Intense propaganda against Greece and Yugoslavia is being spread in village meetings. The claim is made that these two countries are preparing a revolution in Albania with the aid of Albanian "traitors" who have fled to those countries. All the speakers reassure the people that there is no need for fear since "Mother Russia" will protect them.

2. Resistance to the Regime:

- a. On 10 February 1951 the inhabitants of the Lushnje area gathered in Lushnje in a demonstration and shouted, "Give us bread or kill us!"
- b. In the Erseka area five Communists were killed by guerrillas. As a result of this incident, a battalion of 8 Regiment of Korce went to Erseka on 6 February 1951.
- c. On 13 February 1951 unidentified Albanian guerrillas killed three agents of the Sigurimi. A skirmish with the guerrillas followed, but the guerrillas suffered no casualties.
- d. In the Elbasan area on 3 February 1951 a group of 20 Nationalist Albanian guerrillas skirmished with units of the Pursuit Brigade. It is alleged that this group of guerrillas had been betrayed by the man who was giving them food. As a result of the skirmish, 10 guerrillas and 20 soldiers were killed. Subsequently the guerrillas killed their betrayer, whose treachery they had discovered. There are rumors that the guerrillas were parachuted into Albania.
- e. On 8 February 1951 a guerrilla group of unknown number and identity passed through the village of Raje. They attempted to take 40 persons from this village to join them in the mountains, but they did not succeed in their mission.
- f. [REDACTED] six guerrillas in the church of Prophet Elias in Hociht (N. 17-54). They had lighted a fire.

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- g. On the night of 8 February 1951 two strangers went to a house in Hocisht and demanded bread and then disappeared. They are thought to have been guerrillas.

3. Secret Police (Sigurimi):

An order has been issued to the inhabitants not to receive anyone into their houses at night, even if such a person says that he is an agent of the Sigurimi. The reason for this measure is the assassination of certain Communists by the guerrillas.

4. Concentration Camps for Anti-Communists:

- a. Prisoners are working on State farms in Kamsh, 2,000 meters from Tirana.
- b. There is a camp in the Vlone area and another in the Himarre area.
- c. The prisoners of the Burrell Prison were moved on 10 February 1951 to Durres because guerrillas had tried three times to liberate them.

5. Economic Situation:

- a. On 13 February 1951 all food ration cards were collected from those persons who do not belong to cooperatives (shoemakers, barbers, and the technical workers of the cities generally), in order to compel them to work in the cooperatives. If they do not enroll, they will be obliged to get their food from the State stores, where it is more expensive than in the cooperatives. For example, corn (maize) in the cooperative is 4 lek per kilogram, whereas in the State stores it is 80 lek per kilogram.
- b. About the end of January, work began on the construction of an electric power plant in Pilur. It is to furnish electricity to the villages of Pilur (N. 17-60), and Progre (N. 20-63). It is expected to begin operating within the current month (sic).

6. Communications:

- a. The Pegin-Elbasan railroad line was completed on 1 January 1951, but it has not yet been put into operation. After completing the line, the Labor Battalion of "volunteers" from the Devoll region was disbanded.
- b. Rumors are now circulating that other volunteer brigades will be organized for the construction of the Maliq-Gramsh-Elbasan road.
- c. On 27 January 1951 two steamships arrived in Durres with raw materials (sic) for the production of cement.

7. Army:

- a. The 8 Division gathered in Korce for the winter period. It was not ascertained whether 26 Regiment also came to Korce.
- b. Pogradec is the base of a battalion of 26 Infantry Regiment.
- c. Five heavy pieces of artillery and one mountain gun are still in sheds in Zemblak (N. 15-64).
- d. A company of engineers of 8 Division is in Zemblak.

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- e. On 8 February 1951 a battalion of infantry from 8 Division came to Erseke. By 19 February 1951 it had returned to Korce.
- f. In Biglista (sic - Bilce?) there is a battalion called a mixed battalion of 8 Division. It is not known whether it belongs to a regiment of 8 Division or is directly under the Division. Informant thinks it may be 84 Battalion of 14 Regiment which in the summer stays at Hosiht. The chief mission of this battalion is to guard the arms and ammunition of 8 Division and to construct fortifications. The battalion consists of trusted men of the Communist Party.
- g. The class of 1929 is reported to have been demobilized at the beginning of February 1951. This is for the Army; it is not known whether those serving in the Navy were demobilized at the same time.
- h. The class of 1931, Series b', in the Devoll area, was notified to report on 28 February 1951 to the Commissions of Selection at Korce.
- i. There has been talk in the Komiteti of Korce that all the old Partisans and trusted men of the Communist Party are going to be called up to serve as mercenary troops (sic).

8. Military Stores:

- a. Ammunition was transported by truck to Zemblak about the end of January 1951. From there it was moved on two-wheel carts to a newly constructed stone building (measuring 6 by 10 meters) located about 500 meters west of the village. Because of the narrowness of the road trucks could not approach the building. This storehouse is located near two other storehouses for arms. One of the boxes of ammunition contained German cartridges for rifles. The transportation was done at night.
- b. In Korce there are four large buildings in the center of the city. They are called Palacines. Three of them are used by the Sigurimi. At the beginning of February 1951 arms and ammunition were transported to the fourth building.

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